(b) Certain time-limit for disposal of cases has been fixed under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. Cases which do not require testing, have to be disposed of within 3 months and cases which require testing have to be decided within 5 months.

(c) and (d) Piling up of cases in consumer courts is due to a number of reasons like frequent adjournments, lack of proper infrastructure, etc. The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 as amended in 1993 empowers the State Govemments to set up additional District Forum(s) for disposal of cases. The responsibility of setting up of additional District Forum(s) lies with the State Govemments. The Central Government has also agreed to give a one-time financial assistance of Rs.61 crores to the State Govemments in four half-yearly instalments to strengthen the infrastructure of the consumer courts.

महिला श्रमिकों के संरक्षण हेतु विधान

781. **श्री अनन्तराम जायसवाल**:

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय:

क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार घरेलू वस्तुओं के उत्पादन में कार्यरत महिला श्रमिकों को संरक्षण प्रदान करने हुते कोई घेरक पुरःस्थापित करने का विचार रखती हैं;

(ख) यदि हां,तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या हैं और सरकार संबंध में कब तक और किस प्रकार का निर्णय लेने विचार रखती हैं?

श्रम मंत्री (**श्री पी.ए.संगमा**): (क) "घरेलू काम" के उत्पादन में कार्यरत महिला श्रमिकों को भी प्रदान करने हेतु कोई विधेयक लाने के लिए इस कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन नहीं हैं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Spread of byssinosis among workers in Textile Industry

782. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the labourers working in the textile industry are suffering from a particular disease called bysssinosis;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard and measures taken for protecting the labourers from acquiring the said disease?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pending residual work with coal controller

783. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status and details of the pending residual work of World Bank Loan relating to prenationalisation period being dealt with by the Coal Controller;

(b) what is being done to expedite this work; and

(c) by what time this work will continue and what is its relativance now?